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Identical letters dated 14 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 13 March 2001 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 23 to 27 February 2001 they carried out 143 sorties, 66 of them from Saudi Arabia and 77 from Kuwait.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 14 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 143 sorties in the period from 23 to 27 February 2001, 66 of them from Saudi Arabia and 77 from Kuwait.

In the southern region 143 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1245 hours on 23 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Artawi, Nukhayb, Najaf, Karbala', Taqtaqanah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Samawah, Walid air base, Maysan, Ukhaydir, Talhah West, kilometre-40, Rifa'i and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1525 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1220 hours on 24 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 15 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from the demilitarized zone with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Faw, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Nasiriyah, Nukhayb, Taqtaqanah, Karbala', Jalibah, Diwaniyah, Mashkhab and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0830 hours on 25 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 32 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Qal'at Salih, Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Ashbajah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Shinafiyah, Samawah, Lasaf, Diwaniyah, Taqtaqanah, Basrah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0810 hours on 26 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 22 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman,

Basrah, Qurnah, Amarah, Najaf, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Jalibah, Artawi and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1450 hours on 27 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Jalibah, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Shatrah and Rumaythah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1655 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi targets and installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs